

Message Text

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51

ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-02 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 OCL-00

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----- 026774

R 051605Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5539

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2461

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, LI, US

SUBJECT: DUTY-FREE ENTRY UNDER VARIOUS US-LIBERIAN AGREEMENTS

1. OVER YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN EROSIONS IN PRACTICE FROM REGIMES SPELLED OUT IN VARIOUS AGREEMENTS FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF GOODS AND OTHER AMENITIES AVAILABLE TO PERSONNEL OF THE SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF US REPRESENTATION HERE. WE HAVE MENTIONED SOME OF THESE MATTERS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INTEND TO TAKE UP OTHERS SOON. ONE POINT THAT RANKLES CONSIDERABLY, PARTICULARLY AMONG STAFF CORPS, IN FACT THAT QUOTAS SET BY GOL ON DOLLAR VALUE OF GOODS THAT USG PERSONNEL MAY IMPORT DUTY FREE PER QUARTER (FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ONLY MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS) AS WELL AS QUOTAS ON QUANTITIES OF OTHER CONSUMABLES (CIGARETTES, LIQUOR AND GASOLINE) ARE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER FOR THOSE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST THAN QUOTAS FOR THOSE NOT. NONE OF RELEVANT AGREEMENTS (VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CONSULAR OFFICERS 9 BEVANS 607, MILITARY MISSION 2 UST 1, PEACE CORPS 13 UST 308, VOA 10 UST 1444, AID 7 UST 603, FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL 5 UST 734) APPEARS TO PROVIDE FOR QUOTAS. BUT VOA AND FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL AGREEMENTS PROVIDE FOR RECIPROCITY.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON (A) WHETHER UNDER ANY OF THESE AGREEMENTS GOL IS ENTITLED TO PUT ANY LIMITS (OR QUOTAS) ON DUTY-FREE IMPORTS, AND (B) WHETHER ANY SUCH QUOTAS MAY DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THOSE ON DIP LIST AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOSE NOT ON DIP LIST.

3. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON WHO, WITHIN
PURVIEW OF SECOND PARAGRAPHS OF ARTICLES III AND IV OF
CONSULAR CONVENTION OF 1939, ARE INCLUDED AMONG "OFFICIALS
WHO ARE DULY APPOINTED BY ONE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO EXERCISE IN ITS BEHALF ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS
IN THE TERRITORY OF THE OTHER HIGH CONTRACTING POWER...."
SPECIFICALLY, DOES THIS LANGUAGE APPLY TO PERSONNEL OF
EMBASSY, INCLUDING ATO; MILITARY MISSION; AND OTHER USG
AGENCIES, E.G., PEACE CORPS STAFF, AID, VOA?
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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